

### Amendments to the Claims

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of uniquely identifying resources, comprising:  
2 modeling the resources using a hierarchical schema, wherein classes in the hierarchical  
3 schema correspond to resource types and wherein instances in the hierarchical schema represent  
4 individual resources, each instance being defined according to a class definition of a selected one  
5 of the classes that corresponds to the resource type of the individual resource represented by the  
6 instance;  
7 defining, in the class definition of a topmost class of the hierarchical schema, a naming rule  
8 property and an instance identity property, wherein each class at levels of the hierarchical schema  
9 beneath the topmost class inherits the naming rule property and the instance identity property;  
10 specifying a value of the naming rule property in each of the class definitions, wherein:  
11 the value of the naming rule property comprises at least one property name  
12 selected from a collection of property names comprising the class definition;  
13 for each class definition, the selected at least one property name is selected to  
14 ensure that each instance identity generated for the instances defined according to the class  
15 definition is unique among all of the instances in the hierarchical schema;  
16 the value of the naming rule property specified in at least one of the class  
17 definitions comprises at least two of the property names selected from the collection of property  
18 names comprising the class definition; and  
19 the value of the naming rule property for at least two of the class definitions  
20 differs; and  
21 for each of the modeled resources, specifying a value of the instance identity property in

22 the instance which represents that resource, wherein:

23 the value of the instance identity is generated ~~according to~~ using the specified  
24 value of the naming rule property for the class definition according to which that instance is  
25 defined; and

26 the value of the instance identity specifies a class name of a particular one of the  
27 classes that corresponds to the resource type of this resource and, for each of the at least one  
28 property name defined as the value of the naming rule property in the class definition of the  
29 particular one of the classes, a name and value pair comprising that property name and a property  
30 value corresponding thereto for the resource represented by this instance.

Claim 2 (canceled)

1 Claim 3 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising locating a  
2 particular instance that represents a particular resource using the value of the instance identity  
3 property for that instance.

Claim 4 (canceled)

1 Claim 5 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein:

2 the naming rule property for at least one of the class definitions further comprises a  
3 scoping context selected to ensure that each of the instance identities generated for the instances  
4 defined according to the class definition are unique within the scoping context; and

5 the value of the instance identity property for each of the instances defined according to  
6 that class definition further comprises the scoping context.

Claim 6 (canceled)

1 Claim 7 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 5, wherein:

2 the scoping context comprises a scoping class name that identifies one of the classes and,  
3 for each of the at least one property name specified as the value of the naming rule property in the  
4 class definition of the identified one of the classes, a name and value pair comprising that property  
5 name and the value corresponding thereto for a particular instance of the identified one of the  
6 classes.

Claim 8 (canceled)

1 Claim 9 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 7, wherein:

2 the naming rule property for at the least one of the class definitions further comprises a  
3 root context to ensure that each of the instance identities generated for the instances defined  
4 according to the class definition are unique within the scoping context within the root context;  
5 and

6 the value of the instance identity property for each of the instances defined according to  
7 that class definition further comprises the root scope.

1 Claim 10 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 9, wherein the root scope  
2 comprises a domain name.

1 Claim 11 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the value of the naming rule  
2 property is specified using a structured document.

1 Claim 12 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the value of the naming rule  
2 property is specified using a structured markup language.

1 Claim 13 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the hierarchical schema is an  
2 object-oriented schema.

Claims 14 - 16 (canceled)

1 Claim 17 (currently amended): A method of generating unique resource identities, comprising:  
2 determining a particular resource for which a unique resource identity is to be generated;  
3 accessing a class hierarchy with which resources are modelled, thereby obtaining a class  
4 definition for a class that corresponds to a resource type for the particular resource;  
5 locating, in the class definition, a naming rule that specifies how identities for instances of  
6 the class are to be generated, wherein:  
7 the naming rule is specified in the class definition as a value of a naming rule  
8 property;

the naming rule specifies at least one property name, each of the at least one specified property name selected from a collection of property names comprising the class definition to ensure that each of the instances of the class are uniquely identified within the class hierarchy;

the naming rule specified in at least one of the class definitions comprises at least two of the property names selected from the collection of property names comprising the class definition; and

the value of the naming rule property for at least two of the class definitions differs; and

generating the identity for the particular resource using the located naming rule, wherein:

the identity is generated according to the located naming rule; and

the generated identity specifies a class name of `[[a]]` the class that corresponds to the resource type for the particular resource and, for each of the at least one property name specified by the located naming rule, a name and value pair comprising that property name and a property value corresponding thereto for the particular resource.